

Appl. No. 10/071,938
Amtd. dated July 7, 2006
Reply to Office Action of Apr. 19, 2006

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-16 (canceled)

Claim 17 (withdrawn): A housing for use in a portable electronic device comprising:
an outer layer, wherein the outer layer is composed of a transparent material;
an inner layer; and
an enclosed volume arranged between the outer layer and the inner layer, wherein the enclosed volume holds at least one fluid and at least one decorative substance.

Claim 18 (withdrawn): A housing as recited in claim 17 wherein the at least one decorative substance is a combination of one or more substances selected from a group consisting of a colored dye, a plurality of light reflecting particles, a plurality of bubbles, at least one solid shape, and at least one decorative substance comprises an immiscible liquid.

Claim 19 (withdrawn): A housing as recited in claim 17 wherein the at least one decorative substance is characterized by a decorative substance viscosity, wherein the at least one fluid is characterized by a fluid viscosity, and further wherein the decorative substance viscosity differs from the fluid viscosity.

Claim 20 (withdrawn): A housing as recited in claim 17 wherein the at least one decorative substance moves in relation to the at least one fluid in response to an environmental stimulus.

Claim 21 (withdrawn): A housing as recited in claim 20 wherein the environmental stimulus is a combination of one or more stimulus selected from a group consisting of an acoustic stimulus, a

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thermal stimulus, an electrical light stimulus, an electromagnetic stimulus, and a mechanical stimulus.

Claim 22 (withdrawn): A housing as recited in claim 20 wherein the housing encases a plurality of internal components of the portable electronic device, and further wherein the plurality of internal components generates the environmental stimulus.

Claim 23 (withdrawn): A housing as recited in claim 22, wherein the environmental stimulus is a light, and further wherein the light interacts with the at least one decorative substance to create a plurality of visual effects.

Claim 24 (withdrawn): A housing as recited in claim 23 wherein the light further interacts with the at least one fluid to create a second plurality of visual effects.

Claim 25 (withdrawn): A housing for use in a portable electronic device comprising:
an outer layer, wherein the outer layer is composed of a transparent material;
an inner layer; and
an enclosed volume arranged between the outer layer and the inner layer, wherein the enclosed volume includes a plurality of fiber optics.

Claim 26 (currently amended): A housing for use in a portable electronic device comprising:
an outer surface that includes a sensory producing substance, the sensory producing substance producing at least a [[one]] non-thermal, non-visual sensation responsive to at least one stimulus.

Claim 27 (previously presented): A housing as recited in claim 26, wherein the sensory producing substance is a haptic producing substance other than a substance that produces a thermal sensation.

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Claim 28 (currently amended): A housing as recited in claim 27, wherein the haptic producing substance produces [[at least]] one of a vibration, a pressure sensation, and a texture sensation responsive to the at least one stimulus.

Claim 29 (currently amended): A housing for use in a portable electronic device comprising:
an outer surface including at least one shape element, the at least one shape element including a sensory producing substance that produces at least a [[one]] non-thermal, non-visual sensation responsive to at least one stimulus.

Claim 30 (previously presented): A housing as recited in claim 29, wherein the sensory producing substance is a haptic producing substance other than a substance that produces a thermal sensation.

Claim 31 (currently amended): A housing as recited in claim 29, wherein the sensory producing substance produces [[at least]] one of a vibration, a pressure sensation, and a texture sensation responsive to the at least one stimulus.

Claim 32 (currently amended): A housing for use in a portable electronic device, wherein the housing encases a plurality of internal components of the portable electronic device, the housing comprising:

an outer surface including at least one shape element, the at least one shape element including a sensory producing substance that produces at least a [[one]] non-thermal, non-visual sensation responsive to at least one stimulus generated by the plurality of internal components.

Claim 33 (currently amended): A housing as recited in claim 32, wherein the sensory producing substance further produces [[the]] at least the [[one]] non-thermal, non-visual sensation responsive to at least one environmental stimulus that is external to the housing, the at least one environmental stimulus including at least one of an acoustic stimulus, an electromagnetic stimulus, an olfactory stimulus, and a mechanical stimulus.

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Claim 34 (currently amended): A housing for use in a portable electronic device comprising:

an outer surface that includes a sensory producing substance, the sensory producing substance producing at least an [[one]] adjustable, non-thermal, non-visual sensation responsive to at least one stimulus.

Claim 35 (withdrawn): A housing as recited in Claim 34 wherein the portable electronic device includes manual sensitivity switches for adjusting a sensitivity of a response of the appearance changing substance.

Claim 36 (withdrawn): A housing as recited in Claim 34 wherein the portable electronic device includes a software algorithm for adjusting a sensitivity of a response of the appearance changing substance.

Claim 37 (withdrawn): A housing as recited in Claim 34 wherein the portable electronic device includes a processor for dynamically controlling a response of the appearance changing substance.

Claim 38 (withdrawn): A housing as recited in Claim 34 wherein the portable electronic device is coupled to a computer for dynamically controlling a response of the appearance changing substance.

Claim 39 (withdrawn): A housing as recited in Claim 34, wherein the portable electronic device includes a plurality of internal components for receipt of a communication message for dynamically controlling a response of the appearance changing substance.

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Claim 40 (currently amended): A housing for use in a portable electronic device, wherein the housing encases a plurality of internal components of the portable electronic device, the housing comprising:

an outer surface including at least one shape element, the at least one shape element including a sensory producing substance that produces at least a [[one]] non-thermal, non-visual sensation responsive to one or more operations of the plurality of internal components.

Claim 41 (currently amended): A housing as recited in Claim 40, wherein the sensory producing substance further produces [[the]] at least the [[one]] non-thermal, non-visual sensation responsive to at least one environmental stimulus that is external to the housing, the at least one environmental stimulus including at least one of an acoustic stimulus, an electromagnetic stimulus, an olfactory stimulus, and a mechanical stimulus.

Claim 42 (currently amended): A housing as recited in Claim 26, wherein the sensory producing substance produces [[the]] at least the [[one]] non-thermal, non-visual sensation responsive to at least one environmental stimulus external to the housing.

Claim 43 (currently amended): A housing as recited in Claim 26, wherein the housing encases a plurality of internal components of the portable electronic device and wherein the sensory producing substance produces [[the]] at least the [[one]] non-thermal, non-visual sensation responsive to a stimulus generated by the plurality of internal components.

Claim 44 (currently amended): A housing as recited in Claim 26, wherein the sensory producing substance produces [[the]] at least the [[one]] non-thermal, non-visual sensation responsive to at least one environmental stimulus that is external to the housing, the at least one environmental stimulus including at least one of an acoustic stimulus, an electromagnetic stimulus, an olfactory stimulus, and a mechanical stimulus.

Claim 45 (currently amended): A housing as recited in Claim 29, wherein the housing encases a plurality of internal components of the portable electronic device and wherein the sensory

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producing substance produces [[the]] at least the [[one]] non-thermal, non-visual sensation responsive to a stimulus generated by the plurality of internal components.

Claim 46 (currently amended): A housing as recited in Claim 34, wherein the housing encases a plurality of internal components of the portable electronic device and wherein the sensory producing substance produces [[the]] at least the [[one]] adjustable, non-thermal, non-visual sensation responsive to a stimulus generated by the plurality of internal components.

Claim 47 (currently amended): A housing as recited in Claim 30, wherein the haptic producing substance produces [[at least]] one of a vibration, a pressure sensation, and a texture sensation responsive to the at least one stimulus.

Claim 48 (currently amended): A housing as recited in Claim 29, wherein the sensory producing substance produces [[the]] at least the [[one]] non-thermal, non-visual sensation responsive to at least one environmental stimulus that is external to the housing, the at least one environmental stimulus including at least one of an acoustic stimulus, an electromagnetic stimulus, an olfactory stimulus, and a mechanical stimulus.

Claim 49 (currently amended): A housing as recited in Claim 32, wherein the sensory producing substance is a haptic producing substance other than a substance that produces a thermal sensation.

Claim 50 (currently amended): A housing as recited in Claim 40, wherein the sensory producing substance is a haptic producing substance other than a substance that produces a thermal sensation.